

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (CANCELLED)

19. (NEW) A metal frame made up of the union of a plurality of extruded elements; said frame comprising a plurality of linear bars, which have a constant cross section, are obtained by extrusion, and are joined to one another by means of welding at structural nodes defined by jointing bodies, each of said jointing bodies having a number of respective pockets which are designed to house corresponding linear bars, each of said jointing bodies having a box type structure and made up of the union of a respective load-bearing elements which is substantially obtained by extrusion and has a given direction of extrusion, with at least one pair of planar metal sheets, which are set perpendicular to the direction of extrusion and are welded to the load-bearing element on opposite sides of the load-bearing element, said frame having at least one load-bearing element formed by the lateral union of a number of simple elements, each of said simple elements being obtained directly via extrusion and having a given direction of extrusion parallel to the direction of extrusion of the other simple elements, the simple elements making up a load-bearing element being joined to one another laterally by mechanical slotting means.

20. (NEW) The frame according to Claim 19, wherein said simple elements making up a load-bearing element are also joined to one another laterally by means of welding.

21. (NEW) The frame according to Claim 19, wherein all of the simple elements making up one load-bearing element are the same as one another.

22. (NEW) The frame according to Claim 19, wherein the plane closing metal sheets are welded to the load-bearing element by means of a friction stir welding type.

23. (NEW) The frame according to Claim 19, wherein one of said jointing bodies comprises at least one further plane metal sheet set parallel to the direction of extrusion and welded to the load-bearing element to define a respective pocket.

24. (NEW) A motor vehicle provided with a metal frame made up of the union of a plurality of extruded elements and built according to Claim 19, said frame comprising a plurality of linear bars which have a constant cross section, are obtained by extrusion, and are joined to one another by means of welding at structural nodes defined by jointing bodies, each of said jointing bodies, each of said jointing bodies having a number of respective pockets which are designed to house corresponding linear bars, each jointing bodies has a box type structure and is made up of the union of a respective load-bearing element which is substantially obtained by extrusion and has a given direction of extrusion, with at least one pair of plane closing metal sheets which are set perpendicular to the direction of extrusion and are welded to the load-bearing element on opposite sides of the load-bearing element, said motor vehicle having at least one load-bearing element formed by the lateral union of a number of simple elements, each of which is obtained directly via extrusion and has a given direction of extrusion parallel to the direction of extrusion of the other simple elements, said simple elements making up a load-bearing element being joined to one another laterally by mechanical slotting means.

25. (NEW) A method for the fabrication of a metal frame made up of the union of a plurality of extruded elements; the method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining a plurality of linear bars having a constant cross section by extrusion,
- obtaining a number of jointing bodies, each of which has a box type structure and has a number of pockets designed to house corresponding linear bars, each of said jointing bodies being obtained by joining a load-bearing element, which is substantially obtained by extrusion and has a given direction of extrusion, with at least one pair of plane closing metal sheets, which are set perpendicular to the direction of extrusion and are welded to the load-bearing element on opposite sides of the load-bearing element,
- joining the linear bars at structural nodes defined by said jointing bodies, and

making at least one load-bearing element by joining laterally a number of simple elements, each of said simple elements being obtained directly via extrusion and having a given direction of extrusion parallel to the direction of extrusion of the other simple elements, the simple elements making up a load-bearing element being joined to one another laterally by mechanical slotting means.

26. (NEW) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the simple elements making up a load-bearing element are also joined to one another laterally also by means of welding.

27. (NEW) The method according to Claim 25, wherein all of the simple elements (11) making up one of said same load-bearing elements are the same as one another.

28. (NEW) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the plane closing metal sheets are welded to the load-bearing element by means of a welding operation of a friction stir welding type.

29. (NEW) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the closing metal sheets are welded to the load-bearing element prior to coupling the respective linear bars to the load-bearing element.

30. (NEW) The method according to Claim 25, wherein at least one closing metal sheet is welded to the load-bearing element after having coupled a number of respective linear bars to the load-bearing element.

31. (NEW) The method according to Claim 25, wherein a jointing body comprises at least one further plane metal sheet set parallel to the direction of extrusion and welded to the load-bearing element to define a respective pocket.

32. (NEW) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the further plane metal sheet is welded to the load-bearing element to define the respective pocket after the pocket has been engaged by a corresponding linear element.